



MEETING MINUTES / 19 JUNE 2018

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Farley, Showell, Armbruster, Bradley, Johnson, Lardizzzone, Lopez, McMullen, Newman (telephone), Newstadt, Sarg, and Seppala **80%**

Absences: Baldwin, Magner, Stewart

Guests: Bill Peterson (Delaware Veterans Home), Liz Byers-Jiron, Dave Skocik, Kim McMullen, Dave Skocik (DE Veterans Coalition), John Richter (Veterans Center), Elizabeth Short (DHSS), Delores Johnson, Abdul Kamura

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:

Requested moment of silence

- For all deployers
- For fathers unable to be home for Father's Day

MEETING MINUTES:

Approved, motions: Lardizzzone and Johnson

ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS:

Wilmington VAMC – Vince Kane, Director

Excused

Delaware Veterans Home (DVH) – Bill Peterson, Director:

70 residents

Addressed circulating negative Medicare and Veterans Affairs Delaware Veterans Home ratings

- There have been no Governor, Department of State, or family member complaints about care
- VA nursing home ratings do not apply to "state" veteran homes, which is why the home was not listed
- Negative VA variables no longer apply because the rating standard has changed
- Center for Medicare and Medicaid standards do not apply to the home
- The home has a negative 20016 score based on an in-house fall with injury and that information is still being referenced

Another wing and the dining room will be down for renovations

- The Food Bank will supply meals through delivery work with employees
- Renovations to be completed by September 2019

Home of the Brave, Director Jessica Finan:

Excused

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Liz Byers-Jiron

Stand Down, 23 September / 0900, has 50 organizations registered

- Insurance issues have been resolved

- Volunteers and funding are needed

(Newstadt) Made a \$500.00 donation, on behalf of the Jewish War Veterans, to the stand down Give-a-Vet-a-Smile

- 253 veterans are registered and 178 have received dental care

- Homeless veterans are eligible for care through the VA

Dave Skocik

Promoting the trust fund among donors, businesses, and veteran service organizations to raise additional funds

Trust Fund Dinner is 3 November

Speaking with National Guard and Reserves fund program leaders to consider including retired guard and reserve member in their grant giving

Selma Summerlin

Girls' State (American Legion) Secretary of State of Delaware

Accompanied Commissioner Armbruster to the meeting

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bear Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Armbruster:

Interments – 80

Millsboro Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Bradley:

Interments – 34

Bryan Marshall promoted to Grounds Manager

Sprinkler system was upgraded by Conservation Tech Dominick Whidby

Facilities building is in need of repairs

Health and Human Services, Commissioner Sarg:

Provided a VA dental services handout

- Curious if proposed changes are legislative or policy

- What are the coverage categories?

Brain Injury Committee

- Provided applications for brain injury trust fund

Legislative Affairs, Commissioner McMullen:

No updates on commission recommendations

House Bill 368 to amend the Delaware Code to include a Green Alert for veterans passed in the house and was assigned to the Senate Veterans Committee

(Sarg) Has 20 percent been added back to Grant and Aide funding?

Proposal is being discussed within the General Assembly

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS:

Commissioner McMullen (Air Force Sergeants Association - AFSA)

No June chapter meeting

Chapter is preparing for Professional Airman's Conference, 25 – 29 August

Chapter secured Dover AFB Honor Guard for DVH Memorial Day Event

Chapter presented JROTC and Airmen Leadership School awards

AFSA continued:

19 May: Attended POW/MIA Chair presentation at Mission BBQ
20 May: Attended Annual Memorial Mass of the Archdiocese for Military Services
28 May: Presented AFSA wreath at Dover's Memorial Day Ceremony
28 May: Attended Vietnam Veterans of America Memorial Day Ceremony
26 and 30 May: Attended Bear and Bridge Memorial Day Ceremonies
12 Jun: Board Member, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Scholarship Board
- Awarded over \$15K in scholarships to military and veteran family members

Commissioner Armbruster (American Legion - AL)

Attended Bear and Bridge Memorial Day Ceremonies

Attended DE National Guard Welcome Home Event

Attended Chair of Honor Ceremony in New Castle

5 Jun: Start of American Legion Baseball

10 – 14 Jun: Boys State, 102 participants

6 – 7 Jul: State Convention at Dover Downs

- Brett Reistad is leading National Commander Candidate

24 – 30 Aug: National Convention, Minneapolis, MN

Commissioner Bradley (American Veterans - AmVets)

Attended Bear and Bridge Memorial Day Ceremonies, plus Millsboro Flag Day Ceremony

28 May: Post 2 hosted Memorial Day Service and Luncheon

2 Jun: Post 2 held Celebration of Life for Tom Phillips

- Post Financial Officer

- All about helping veterans

- Very good friend

Post 2 donated \$100.00 toward 5K Freedom Run

16 Jun: State Convention at Post 2

7 Jul: Post 2 will host annual crab race

Commissioner Lardizzone (Disabled American Veterans - DAV)

17 May: Attended Womens' Monument Meeting

17 – 19 May: Hosted Departmental Convention

26, 28, and 30 May: Attended various Memorial Day Ceremonies

31 May: Attended Womens' Monument Meeting

1 Jun: Attended DE National Guard Homecoming Event

10 – 13 Jun: Attended Department of NY DAV Convention

14 Jun: Attended Millsboro Cemetery Flag Day Ceremony

18 Jun: Attended DVH Admission's Meeting

12 – 17 Jul: National Convention, Reno, NV

Serving as POC for USS Delaware (submarine) dedication in New Port News, VA on 15 Sep

Commissioner Johnson (Korean War Veterans Association - KWVA)

Donated \$6K in scholarships to three JROTC programs

26 May: Attended Bear Memorial Day Ceremony

30 May: Attended Bridge Memorial Day Ceremony and Delaware Korean American Association picnic, for Korean War Veterans, at Glasgow Park

Attended Trac Chair dedication at Camp Wingate, Yarmoth, MA

- Chair will remain at the camp for veteran use

Donated \$5K to Warrior Weekend Project

14 Jun: Hosted and emceed Millsboro Cemetery Flag Day Ceremony

Commissioner Farley (Marine Corps League - MCL)

Participated in Dover Mayor's Task Force on General Population Homelessness

Department participated in Courts of Honor for 10 Eagle Scouts, including one in Paris, France

CenDel Detachment conducted Rose Campaign fund raising activities for service projects

Attended House Veterans Affairs Committee meeting

- Supported HB 368 Green Alert System

Delaware Veterans' Homelessness status

- 762 veterans permanently housed since 2015

Commissioner Sarg (Military Officers Association of America - MOAA)

16 May: Dover Chapter awarded \$8.5K in scholarships to five Kent County JROTC cadets

MOAA national also directly distributes scholarship nationwide

Attended Bear, Bridge, and Dover Memorial Day Ceremonies

29 May: Advocated with federal delegation (Senator Carper, Senator Coons, Representative Blunt-Rochester on various DoD Appropriation Bill Items (active duty pay raise, eliminating widows' tax, concurrent receipt for category 61 medical retirees, and additional items

29 and 31 May: Attended DE Veterans Coalition meeting and Womens' Memorial meeting

4 Jun: Attended Brain Injury Committee Meeting

- Asked Wilmington VAMC Director to appoint VA traumatic brain injury representative for committee membership

5 Jun: Attended DE Veterans Home dental suite cost meeting

12 Jun: Attended Employee First Oversight Committee meeting

- Coordinated with Del Tech and Central Chamber of Commerce to do presentation at Economic Conference (18 Sep)

18 Jun: Attended Delaware Veterans Home Admissions Committee meeting

Donated \$500.00 to Freedom 5K Run

Commissioner Magner (Military Order of the Purple Heart - MOPH) excused but presented notes

19 Jun / 1000: Purple Heart Truck Run is stopping at Cabela's, Christiana Mall

- One of 35 nationwide stops ending at national convention in Spokane, WA on 30 July

- Focus is "Mobility is Freedom"

- Adapted F-150 truck accommodates combat wounded veterans

Commissioner Newman (Veterans of Foreign Wars - VFW)

22 - 23 Jul: Departmental Convention in New Castle

Upcoming Departmental Convention for Military Order of the Cootie

Commissioner Baldwin (Vietnam Veterans of America - VVA) excused by provided notes

Finalizing Pearl Harbor Memorial at Lake Como

- Smyrna Town Council has authorized land and will install lights

- Memorial has been contracted out and funds were raised to cover \$17K costs

- Featuring two ton anchor from Cheatham Annex, VA to highlight naval piece

Formed partnership with General Vavala and Dr. Andrzejewski to create veterans education resource center on a local campus, open to all student veteran association members

- University of Delaware, Wilmington University, and Delaware Tech student veterans' organizations are interested

- Preparing white paper for Delaware Tech President Dr. Brainard's

- This is a private initiative and not associated with the VVA

23 - 27 Jul: Presenting a "Principals Perspective on JROTC" seminar in San Diego to 160 retiring Navy and Marine Corps senior enlisted and senior officers

Commissioner Showell (At Large, affiliated with Delaware National Guard)
General Timmons, Delaware's The Adjutant General hosted the first Veterans Education Task Force meeting

- Meetings will seek to improve student veterans' higher learning concerns and standing
- 25 and 27 Jun: 166th Maintenance Group's deployment farewell event will take place at various morning times at the operations building
- Chicks for Charity, supporting the DVTF, will host a fundraising dinner on 18 September / 1800
- Hooked Seafood and Martini Bar, Rehoboth

Commissioner Newstadt (At Large, affiliated with Jewish War Veterans)
Jewish War Veterans have disbanded

- Retaining monthly bingo at Wilmington VAMC

Commissioner Seppala (At Large, affiliated with Military Order of World Wars)

- 23 May: Attended Our Community Salutes new enlistee recognition dinner
- 25 May: Attended Honor World War II and Korean War Veterans ceremony hosted by National Association of Black Veterans
- 4 – 6 Jun: MOWW
- 30 May: Attended Bridge Memorial Day ceremony
- 2 Jun: Attended Quilt of Honor presentation to Commissioner Lopez
- 4 – 6 Jun: MOWW National Commander in Chief David Gibson visited Philadelphia and Wilmington chapters
- 8 Jun: Attended POW/MIA Chair dedication and Empty Chair degree sponsored by Nur Shrine Legion of Honor and Iconic Lodge 31

Commissioner Lopez (At Large, affiliated with Delaware Veterans)

- 19 May: Attended DAV Convention dinner
- 24 May: Post 2 place flags on veteran markers at Holy Cross Cemetery
- 26 May: Post 1 Memorial Day Ceremony in Wilmington
- 27 May: Post 1 placed flags on graves of fallen post members
- 28 May: Coordinated and emceed Post 2 Memorial Day Ceremony in Dover
- 30 May: Attended Bridge Memorial Day Ceremony
- 1 Jun: Attended and served as vendor with Veterans Affairs Transition and Care Management Teams during Yellow Ribbon event
- 2 Jun: Received Quilt of Honor during Post 1 presentation
- 14 Jun: Completed employment with Army Wounded Warrior Program
- 19 Jun: Scheduled Purple Heart presentation for Army Wounded Warrior Abdul Kamara following commission meeting

Commissioner Stewart (At Large, affiliated with student veterans associations)
Excused

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

DVTF: Requests 19, Granted 10 (52.6%), Awarded \$8,451.6 and Balance \$39,822.06

TERM COMPLETION:

Lardizzone: 21 October 2018

EVENTS:

- 7 Jul / 0900: Freedom 5K Run, Walk, and Roll, Silver Lake Park, Dover
- 19 Jul / 0830: Delaware Joining Forces meeting, Adams State Service Center, Georgetown

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Bradley requested to host the August meeting at the AmVets Post 2 in Millsboro
- Following discussion the Commissioners agreed to the change in location
Commissioner Farley discussed the need for Commissioner job descriptions to define roles
Commissioner Lopez will research having a future meeting at DelVets Post 1 in New Castle

ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION:

Commissioner Newstadt discussed the need for additional handicapped parking spaces adjacent to the building

- Parking, for members requiring handicapped parking, is difficult
- This may adversely affected disabled veterans

Commissioner Newstadt made a motion to research this concern, Commissioner Johnson seconded, and the motion was approved

Notes:

The building is privately owned and the commission is not the sole occupant

Parking is only problematic, once a month during the commission meetings

SPECIAL SESSION:

Commissioner Farley, retired Marine Corps Major, presented Army Wounded Warrior SSG (ret) Abdul Kamara with his Purple Heart

- SSG Kamara received his medal for actions and injuries sustained in Iraq
- Commissioner Lopez, Army Wounded Warrior Program, was instrumental in assisting SSG Kamara in receiving proper recognition

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, 17 July 2018 at 10:00 AM

LOCATION:

Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs Conference

Room